

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUSPENDING COMMUNICATION
WITH A HARD DISK DRIVE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER DATA RELATING TO
THE HARD DISK DRIVE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus are provided for suspending communications with a hard
disk drive in order to transfer data relating to the hard disk drive between the host and an
intermediate communications gateway, thereby isolating the hard disk drive from the bus
while this data is transferred. The data transferred between the host and the intermediate
10 communications gateway may include control signals transferred from the host to the
intermediate communications gateway and status signals transferred from the
intermediate communications gateway to the host. In one embodiment, normal
communications with an IDE hard disk drive are suspended upon the assertion of the
RESET line of the AT bus. As such, the state of the RESET line may be controlled such
15 that the RESET line is no longer merely utilized as a system reset but, instead, is used to
define the state of communications between the host and the hard disk drive.

CLT01/4494147v1